

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7721

EXDIS

FOR AMB RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS IR
SUBJ: IRANIAN VIEWS ON DEEP SEABED ISSUE

REF: (A) STATE 202845, (B) TEHRAN 7647

1. PURSUANT TO YOUR CABLE (REFTEL POL COUNS (LAMBRAKIS)
DISCUSSED DEEP SEABED WITH CHIEF IRANIAN LOS REP KAZEMI AUG 28.
KAZEMI MADE NO SECRET OF HIS "INTELLECTUAL ATTACHMENT" TO THE
UNITARY IDEA AS OPPOSED TO THE PARALLES SYSTEM. HE ALLOWED THAT
THIS WAS THE LOGICAL WAY PREFERRED BY THE MAJORITY OF MANKING.
HE NOTED THAT ANY PROPOSED DEEP SEABED AGENCY WOULD ACTUALLY BE
RUN BY AN EXECUTIVE COMITE ON WHICH US, CANADA, AND OTHER WESTERN
NATIONS WOULD BE HEAVILY REPRESENTED. EVEN A MAJORITY NOT
UNLIKE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES WHICH RUN OTHER INSTUTIONS
SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL BANK.

2. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES, KAZEMI
FELL BACK ON THE POSITION THAT IRAN'S NATIONAL INTERESTS
COULD IN FACT ACCOMMODATE THEMSELVES TO EITHER THE
UNITARY OR THE PARALLEL SYSTEMS. POSITION HE WAS
ADVOCATING WAS NOT VITAL TO IRAN AND, BY IMPLICATION,
COULD CHANGE. HE AS MUCH AS ADMITTED TO POL COUNS THAT
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 07721 300719Z

POSITIONS HE GENERALLY ESPOUSED IN LOS MEETING HAVE
NEVER BEEN STUDIED IN ANY DEPTH BY IRAN'S ULTIMATE
POLICY MAKER (THE SHAH), THOUGH GENERAL LINE HE FOLLOWED
IN THESE MEETINGS WAS, OF COURSE, APPROVED BY KAZEMI'S
SUPERVISORS.

3. A BASIC POINT KAZEMI WISHED TO MAKE IS THAT THE LOS CONFERENCE

HAD NOT YET REACHED A NEGOTIATING STAGE WHERE GOVTS TOOK POSITIONS AND ATTEMPTED TO AGREE ON DEFINITE SETS OF PROPOSALS. EVERYTHING WAS BEING DONE BY CONSENSUS, AND VARIOUS COMPROMISES THAT HAD BEEN PROPOSED WERE DROPPED AT THE FIRST OBJECTION, WITHOUT VOTES BEING TAKEN. IN FACT, HE THOUGHT THE CONFERENCE HAD NOT BEEN WELL PREPARED (IN CONTRAST TO 1958 CONFERENCE WHICH HE RECALLED HAD BEEN). ONCE OPENING REMARKS HAD BEEN MADE IN CARACAS IN 1974, NO FURTHER RECORDS WERE BEING KEPT AND THERE WERE NO DOCUMENTS AS SUCH TO GUIDE THE DISCUSSION. A GREAT DEAL OF LATITUDE WAS ALLOWED THE PERSONAL OPINION OF DELEGATES, WHICH KAZEMI MADE CLEAR HE DID NOT OBJECT TO. HE THOUGHT IT HAD BEEN USEFUL AND EDUCATIONAL THAT THE ISSUES WERE BEING DISCUSSED IN THIS LESS STRUCTURED WAY BUT ONE COULD NOT REALLY SPEAK ABOUT FORMAL NATIONAL POSITIONS ON QUESTIONS. THE DELS WERE ACTING PARTLY AS INDIVIDUALS, PARTLY AS INTERNATIONAL LAWYERS, AND ONLY PARTLY AS REPS OF THEIR GOVT. ALL THIS SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND, KAZEMI SAID, WHEN DESCRIBING POSITIONS HE TOOK IN LOS DISCUSSIONS.

4. COMMENT: IN SHORT, KAZEMI WAS CONFESSING THAT THE VIEWS HE EXPRESSES AT LOS ARE ESSENTIALLY HIS OWN. CONSEQUENTLY, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO MODIFY THE VIEWS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED BY THE IRANIAN LOS DEL ON DEEP SEABED ISSUES. IF YOU FEEL IT IMPORTANT ENOUGH, AND THE ISSUES ON WHICH IRANIAN SUPPORT IS NEEDED ARE SHARPLY ENOUGH DEFINED, SUCH MODIFICATION MIGHT BE WORTH EXPLORING. WE COULD DO PREPARATORY WORK HERE, BUT, IN FINAL ANALYSIS, A
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PAGE 03 TEHRAN 07721 300719Z

VISIT TO TEHRAN
BY LOS EXPERTS FROM YOUR STAFF MAY BE REQUIRED. SUCH A VISIT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE MORE CERTAIN OF SUCCESS IF US AND SOVIET POSITIONS ON THESE ISSUES WERE KNOWN TO BE IN HARMONY AT THAT TIME.
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